

Home Hearing Revives Dispute On Nevius Tract

Arlington Speakers Oppose Movement, Urge Sale of Site

Controversy over eventual use of the Government-owned Nevius tract of 27 acres adjacent to Arlington Cemetery was renewed today by witnesses before a House Public Works subcommittee.

Legislation to set aside the area for a National monument dedicated to the ideals of America was approved by spokesmen for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Interior Department and the Public Buildings Administration.

Opposing the bill, Representative Smith, Democrat of Virginia, and A. H. Lundberg, Arlington County Manager, urged instead legislation to force the sale of the property to the highest responsible bidder. This measure, however, would exclude as bidders the United States, any State or any of their political subdivisions.

The Nevius tract was acquired by the United States in 1948 through condemnation procedure at the cost of \$1.6 million as a site for a proposed veterans' hospital.

The Veterans' Administration, however, changed its plans and is now expects to build the hospital on the Soldiers' Home grounds.

Reynolds Urges Approval.

W. E. Reynolds, commissioner of public buildings, who has charge of the site, urged approval of the bill to set up a commission

Hearing Today on Nevius Tract Memorial Bill

A memorial project is proposed for the so-called Nevius Tract in Arlington County in a bill up for public hearing today before the House Public Lands Sub-committee.

The bill is sponsored by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the memorial it proposes is the project of Albert Greensfelder, St. Louis engineer and NCPPC member.

Arlington's County Board is against it. Rep. Howard W. Smith (D., Va.) has introduced another bill to force sale of the Nevius Tract, now owned by the Federal Government, so it will be returned to Arlington's tax rolls.

The Nevius Tract is a 27-acre piece of land directly facing the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and Capitol. NCPPC doesn't want to see it developed as a private apartment or hotel site.

The proposed memorial would be a multi-purpose building combining museum features and exhibit rooms with an auditorium, in a fancy architectural and landscaped setting.

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